

Mr. Speaker, all Minnesotans are extremely proud of Lou Nanne on his election to the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame. We wish Lou and Francine and their wonderful family the very best in the years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAMIE HUGHES

#### **HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 1998*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Mamie Hughes, an inspirational civic leader and civil rights activist in my district. For her dedicated, steadfast commitment to public service and quality leadership throughout the years, Hughes is being recognized As Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange, an organization established in 1980 as a networking resource for women. Ms. Hughes is the first African-American in Kansas City to receive this coveted award.

Ms. Hughes graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, TN, with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and began her public service as an elementary school teacher in Arcola, MS. She continued her career as a teacher in the Kansas City, Missouri School District.

In 1962, as a mother of five children, Ms. Hughes volunteered for several Kansas City civil rights organizations. She represented the 4th district in the Jackson County Legislature for 6 years following a 1972 election, and eventually chaired its Health and Welfare Committee. Following a 1976 re-election, Ms. Hughes was chosen by her peers for the honorable position of Vice-Chair of the Legislature, and 2 years later she was appointed by President Carter to be Regional Director for ACTION, a Federal Volunteer Service Agency, where she oversaw more than 20,000 volunteers in four states.

In 1981, Ms. Hughes' focus shifted slightly from regional to local concerns when she accepted an offer by the Black Economic Union of Greater Kansas City to serve as a Community Planner. A year later, as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Black Economic Union, Ms. Hughes became a driving force behind the rejuvenation of the Historic Jazz District at 18th and Vine as she promoted the area as a cultural center and worked with local officials to get the project designated as an Historic District. We owe thanks to Ms. Hughes for the successful tourist attraction including the Negro League Baseball Museum and Jazz Museum, and the growing business and residential development that 18th and Vine are today.

Ms. Hughes currently is employed by the City of Kansas City, Missouri, as an ombudsman for the Bruce R. Watkins Drive, an important thoroughfare that is being constructed to connect the communities of south Kansas City with downtown. When the development of the Bruce R. Watkins Drive led to public concern about citizens' property rights. Ms. Hughes stepped up as champion for citizens within the area, to counsel them about their rights as residents. She also coordinates activities of the Missouri Department of Transportation with Kansas City's Housing and Urban Development, Public Works, and Parks, Recreation, and Boulevards Departments.

As a founding and charter member of the Central Exchange, a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, board member of the Kansas City Habitat for Humanity, and an advisory board member of the Women's Foundation, Ms. Hughes has received many awards. Her honors include the Public Service Award from the African American Episcopal Church Missionary Society, Career Woman of the Year from the Jones Store Company, and Eleanor Roosevelt Award for her Exemplary Leadership for Women from the Greater Kansas City Commission on the Status of Women.

My friendship with Ms. Hughes is special. She is an inspirational figure in our community and offers the woman of Kansas City and the region a strong role model. As an original member of the Woman's Public Service Network, she is very active in the organization which is a network on key issues of concern to women in our community, especially in helping women succeed in the political process.

Ms. Hughes has the respect, admiration, and trust of citizens in our area and region. She is unique, and truly deserves to be Woman of the Year. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking her for her efforts on behalf of others, and congratulating her for her dedication to making the world a better place for all of us.

#### BALTIMORE REGIONAL CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE

#### **HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 1998*

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, the week of September 20–26, 1998, has been recognized in my home state of Maryland as "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week." Baltimore Regional Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (BRCALA) has worked tirelessly over the last three years to educate Marylanders about the higher costs for consumer products, medical expenses, taxes, and lost business expansion and product development associated with lawsuit abuse. Almost everyone agrees that America has become an overly litigious society.

BRCALA is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots, legal watchdog organization. Its efforts include running educational media announcements, posting billboards and signs, and speaking to local groups throughout the Baltimore area in order to raise public awareness of lawsuit abuse.

When frivolous lawsuits are filed, we all pay, and we all lose, BRCALA's mission to curb lawsuit abuse is an example of Marylanders devoting energy and efforts toward solving problems which cost our state jobs, profits, and opportunities. Its public awareness campaign reaches out to thousands of my constituents as well as thousands of other citizens throughout the Baltimore metropolitan region.

Legal reform of any kind is not a simple issue. The legal system must function properly to provide justice to every American. Accordingly, when lawsuits and the courts can be used recklessly at the consequence of imposing excessive costs to other parties—from individuals to nonprofit agencies to businesses—the system should be reviewed and reformed if possible.

While BRCALA has thousands of supporters throughout the state of Maryland, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize particular individuals who have given countless hours to advance its mission. They are Mary Felica Kniep, Executive Director for BRCALA; Vicki L. Almond, chairwoman; Joseph Brown, Jr.; Stanley Dill; Dr. William Howard; Gary O. Prince; and the Honorable Joseph Sachs—each directors and supporters dedicated to BRCALA.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend all of the individuals who are involved with Baltimore Regional Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse for their wholehearted dedication to this important endeavor.

#### TRIBUTE TO SANDRA S. MORGAN

#### **HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 1998*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Ms. Sandra B. Morgan who on October 14, 1998, will retire after a distinguished 31 year career with the City of Los Angeles government. On October 2, 1998, Sandy, as she is affectionately known, will be honored at an appreciation dinner at the Proud Bird Restaurant in Los Angeles. In honor of her exemplary service to the City of Los Angeles government, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to publicly commend her.

A native Angeleno, Sandy was born to Hia-watha and Lula Garrett on October 2, 1948. She attended public schools in Los Angeles, graduating from Manual Arts High School in 1966. After attending Los Angeles City Junior College, she began her career with the City of Los Angeles government working for the Department of Traffic as a clerk stenographer. From 1967 to 1985, she held various clerical positions of increasing responsibility, rising to become an executive secretary to the vice president of the Board of Public Works in April 1985. Later that same year, she became a personnel analyst, serving as a management advocate for the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. As part of her duties, Sandy developed and implemented employee training modules for the Department of Transportation Office of Parking Management.

When not fulfilling her responsibilities as a city employee, Sandy can be found managing her real estate company, Morgan's Real Estate, which operates in the states of California and Nevada. She is also a notary public. Married to Leslie H. Morgan, a retired real estate officer for the City of Los Angeles, she has three stepsons, Fredrick, Gerry, and Vincent. Sandra and Leslie also are the proud grandparents of Fredrick and Darnell.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted on behalf of the citizens of the 32nd Congressional District of California to have this occasion to thank Sandra S. "Sandy" Morgan for her many years of dedicated and committed services to the citizens of Los Angeles. As she prepares to set course on yet another chapter of her life, which I understand will begin with the Morgan family's move to Las Vegas, Nevada, I ask that you join me in extending our best wishes to her for a future that is filled with much happiness, good health, and abundant prosperity.